

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
JUNE 25, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Ben Moore, Chairman
Bill Lally, Vice Chairman
James Workman
Rick Griffin
Fred Welch, Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Virginia Bridle-Russell

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and introduced those in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC HEARING:

To accept funding from the Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) program (Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants) in the amount of \$20,007.

Police Chief Sullivan explained that the procedure for allocating JAG funds is formula based on population and crime statistics, in combination with a minimum allocation to ensure that each state and territory receives an appropriate share. The purpose of the grant is to fund the following: law enforcement programs, prosecution/court programs, prevention/education programs, corrections/community programs, drug treatment programs, planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to accept and to expend the Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) program in the amount of \$20,007.

Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Griffin congratulated all of the sand sculpture competitors who participated in the annual Hampton Beach Master Sand Sculpting Competition this last week. The sculptures were fabulous works of art and attracted thousands of visitors to the Beach.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. POLICE CHIEF SULLIVAN – DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Police Chief Sullivan commented on the increase in calls for service. The number of incident reports taken, accident reports and the number of arrests are all up. However, as compared to the same time period during 2006, the total number of crimes committed was down 3% and total felonies reported are down 10%. Juvenile arrests have increased by 36% this year, largely as a result of the increased focus on youth alcohol enforcement.

The youth alcohol enforcement initiatives have been successful to this point. Prom and graduation season passed without any serious accidents or incidents occurring in Hampton.

Chief Sullivan reported that the mounted patrol horses are doing better.

The Department training efforts continued this past month with the annual preseason training in use of force and motorcycles being completed. The Chief has invited the Local Government Center (LGC) to offer a driver training course for all officers, this classroom refresher training focuses on the safe operation of emergency vehicles.

The summer special officer schedule began last week. There are 55 special officers working this summer (authorized strength of 70).

The New Hampshire State Police have begun their weekend details to assist the Hampton Police summer operation. The Chief has held joint safety meetings with NH Department of Resources and Economic (DRED) representative, Mr. Warburton and his staff in preparation for the busy summer season. Chief Sullivan thanked DRED for their support and commitment to the safety of the citizens and visitors to the Town of Hampton.

The Police Department is preparing for the July 4th holiday event and making all necessary plans for the week of activities. The amount of policing required during the week will depend on the weather.

Speeding will be enforced aggressively during the summer months. Chief Sullivan encouraged residents with any concerns about speeders in their neighborhood to contact Dispatch or via www.Hamptonpd.com.

Chief Sullivan discussed the possibility of utilizing part-time parking enforcement officers to focus on illegal parking at the beach. Based on those discussions he has created an outline of a parking enforcement program for the summer utilizing funds currently in the budget. He asked the Board if they are interested in pursuing this method of parking enforcement in the Beach area.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Chief to proceed with utilizing part-time enforcement officers to focus on illegal parking in the beach.

There was also discussion about the paving along Ocean Boulevard. Department of Transportation (DOT) crews will be working during the night. No traffic (including foot traffic) will be permitted to cross the newly paved surface for at least an hour.

Chief Sullivan also commented on the request that was made during last week's meeting to establish new loading zones along Ashworth Avenue. He noted that there is limited space due to curb cuts but is planning on issuing a report with his recommendations to the Board for the July 9th meeting.

Mr. Lally commented on the number of people who have contacted him regarding the health issues with the mounted patrol horses. He asked if the Chief will be issuing a report on what happened to the horses. Chief Sullivan is still waiting for a final written vet report and will provide a report to Board when it comes available.

III. MINUTES – JUNE 18, 2007

Page 4 – Under 13 G Street Deliberation – the following amendments were made:

First Paragraph:

The claim was presented in March 2007. The Selectmen held a hearing in May 2007 and toured the property on May 14th. The deliberation

Fourth Paragraph:

Chairman Moore discussed RSA 231:75. He does not believe any evidence supporting the claim of structural damage caused by grade change was presented by the claimant. The claim may or may not be a result of equipment caused vibration resulting in the cracking of the foundation. He noted ...

The June 18, 2007 minutes stand as amended.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Hampton Beach Master Sand Sculpting Competition was held this past week and weekend. Mr. Welch reported that the NH DOT held off on roadway paving completion until the end of the national activity.

State DOT has given indications that the completion of paving Ocean Boulevard will be accomplished by mid week. Hopefully this will close this phase of the work in Hampton on Route 1A.

The Town Manager reported that DOT has started repaving Route 101. The paving will occupy the portion of the highway from Epping to Hampton and will take a number of weeks to complete during the summer months. The construction is being done during the evening.

The Finance Director and Mr. Welch met with the Budget Committee last Tuesday evening.

As authorized by the Board, a portion of the sidewalks that required repair from utility pole relocations has been completed by Public Works. There are two spots left where the sidewalk surface has been replaced. The curbing has been delayed and it is uncertain of an exact date in which the repairs will be done.

Mr. Welch mentioned that the Friends of the Lane Library will hold there annual summer book sale starting July 12th.

The Town Manager has instructed the Public Works Department to complete and close the sewer project by August 15th so that a lower interest rate can be locked in on our SRF loans.

In effort to raise funds to repair the tennis and basketball courts at Tuck Field, a jewelry fundraiser will be held on June 26 at 6 p.m. at Widow Fletchers Tavern.

The Town Manger received a request earlier today from the Professional Firefighters of Hampton. They are seeking permission from the Selectmen to conduct the Annual Burn Fund Boot Drive to raise funds for the IAFF Burn Foundation on July 8th from 8AM to 4PM.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

No comments.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

Mr. Griffin asked where mini bikes can be registered. Mr. Welch believes that they can be registered at a state facility and that the Town has never been authorized to register mini bikes.

Mr. Griffin asked about the lifeguard status at Plaice Cove. Mr. Welch said that there are none as the State is still looking to fill the positions. Mr. Griffin noted that there are many residents in the Plaice Cove area who are very unhappy about the beach not being guarded. The Town Manager commented on the low wage being offered. Mr. Griffin asked if the Town should consider hiring lifeguards directly. Mr. Griffin noted that Hampton is a beach resort town and it should have lifeguards. Last year the Town paid \$18,000 to the State for lifeguards. Mr. Griffin mentioned that the Town of Rye hires lifeguards and pays \$10.50/hour. Mr. Griffin suggested that perhaps a course could be provided at Winnacunnet High School to train students who are interested in pursuing the occupation. Mr. Welch will communicate the idea to the School Board.

Mr. Griffin asked about the status of the dilapidated buildings along Ocean Boulevard near the Lighthouse Market. Mr. Welch reported that the Building Inspector has met with the owners of the property and has arranged for a structural engineer to assess the building this Wednesday, June 27.

Mr. Lally asked about the status of crosswalks along Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Welch noted that the application is the State's responsibility. Once paving is complete, he will contact the Governor's office to make sure that crosswalks are painted in appropriate locations along the Boulevard. The lack of crosswalks is creating a dangerous situation for Hampton Beach visitors.

Mr. Workman mentioned that the former District Courthouse was recently vandalized and needs to be repaired. Mr. Welch is aware of the vandalism and Public Works will be repairing the building tomorrow.

Mr. Lally noted that there is some graffiti on the seawall by 10th Street. Mr. Welch is aware of it and said that there is some uptown as well that will be cleaned up by Public Works.

Mr. Workman noted that the ordinance for the "five corners" was changed a few months ago but the sign has yet to be posted.

Mr. Lally noted that the sign along Exeter Road was taken down as requested by him in October; however, the metal poles are still there and traffic cones have been put over them. He asked if these poles could be removed near 92 Exeter Road.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. AUTHORIZATION TO BID FOR TWO REPLACEMENT FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Fire Chief Lipe reported that during the April flood two of the Fire Department vehicles were submerged in seawater. The LGC Property and Liability insurance has decided to total the vehicles and FEMA will also contribute. The maximum portion that would be required by the Town is \$6,000; however, if the State contributes it would only be \$3,400.

The Chief is looking at purchasing half ton pickup trucks.

It was asked where the funds would come from. Chief Lipe noted that the Fire Department has received \$4,000 in content insurance reimbursement from flood damage. Since the Beach Station is being down sized he is not planning on expending that money on contents. He also noted that there is approximately \$7,000 of unused funds in the medical services account since additional firefighters were not hired.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to authorize the Fire Chief to bid for two replacement Fire Department Vehicles. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. WARRANT FOR DOGS

There are 592 dogs still unlicensed. The Town Manager noted that State statute RSA 466 requires dogs to be licensed by May 1st. The warrant as presented, directs the Chief of Police to issue a civil forfeiture for each unlicensed dog on the list provided by the Town Clerk's office. The civil forfeiture may be sent by certified mail, hand delivered or left at the home of the dog owner. The cost of service shall not exceed \$5 and may be recovered by the Town. The civil forfeiture is \$25 and is payable to the Town Clerk within 15 calendar days of the notice of the forfeiture. Failure to license the dog and to pay the forfeiture plus the cost of service to the Town Clerk shall result in a violation complaint being issued against the owner for processing the District Court with a fine not to exceed \$50.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to sign the warrant for dogs as presented. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

As discussed in the Town Manager's report the Professional Firefighters of Hampton Boot Drive will take place on two public roadways. One located in front of 64 Ashworth Avenue and the other at the intersection of Brown Avenue and Ashworth Avenue.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to permit the Professional Firefighters of Hampton Annual Burn Fund Boot Drive located in front of 64 Ashworth Avenue and at the intersection of Brown Avenue and Ashworth Avenue on July 8th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Rescind Discretionary Preservation Easement for 93 Locke Road
2. Commendations for April Nor'easter

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII PUBLIC COMMENTS

A resident of Hampton who lives near the dilapidated buildings as discussed under old business addressed the Board. He is very concerned about the structure and is upset that it devalues his home and defaces his neighborhood. He also noted that the structure is a haven for birds. The resident urged the Selectmen to issue a cleanup order and thanked Mr. Griffin for bringing the matter to the attention of the Board.

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman